

Paul's 'They Knew' Claim Reinforced by Ex-Detective

By GENE BLAKE, *Times Staff Writer*

Support for a claim by suspended Los Angeles Police Detective Jay Paul that his superiors knew he was working with a computer furnished by a private right-wing organization came from still another source Wednesday.

The support came in a statement from James Davis, retired detective of the now-disbanded Public Disorder Intelligence Division. Davis, now partially paralyzed as a result of a stroke suffered in 1982, was interviewed by investigators last week at his home.

His statement, read into the record at Paul's departmental disciplinary hearing, flatly contradicted testimony by retired Capt. Robert Loomis, who commanded the PDID from 1979 to 1982.

And it backed up testimony by Lt. Thomas Scheidecker, one of Paul's immediate supervisors, that Loomis knew that the Western Goals Foundation, headed by the late Rep. Larry P. McDonald (D-Ga.), chairman of the John Birch Society, provided the computer used by Paul.

Paul is accused of improperly storing intelligence documents at his home and of leaking some of the contents to the private intelligence group, in part by putting the data into the computer.

Davis said he had been told by Paul that the computer had been provided by Western Goals Foundation and an editor of its publications, John Rees.

He said there was "no doubt" that Loomis as well as Scheidecker knew of that, because he had discussed it with both of them.

Paul was authorized to put only public information gleaned from newspapers into

the computer, Davis said. However, Davis said, he expressed fears to both Loomis and Scheidecker that Paul might put intelligence division information into the computer and transmit it to Western Goals Foundation.

Davis said he told Loomis that Paul "could not be trusted to exercise common sense." He said he expressed his concerns to Loomis that Paul would be working on the computer in his wife's law office and that there would be no control over whom he gave information to.

Loomis became "irritated" over such concerns and insisted that Paul would not release information improperly, Davis said.

Loomis, on the other hand, testified earlier that Western Goals Foundation and McDonald were "absolutely not" mentioned in conversations about the computer project Paul was working on. He denied knowing that the computer was owned by the foundation or that Rees was connected with it.

In his statement, Davis said he was not aware that Paul had taken intelligence reports to his home and that it was "well understood" that he was not authorized to do so. He was not told that Paul's wife was receiving money (\$2,500 a month) from Western Goals Foundation, Davis said. If he had been told that, Davis added, he would have "smelled a rat."

Davis said he did not know of anyone ranking higher than Loomis who knew about the computer project.

Sgt. Ken Small, who is presenting the department's case against Paul, said Davis had not been interviewed earlier because of

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his physical condition. Davis volunteered to be interviewed when he read about testimony given by another witness, Sgt. Perry Hutchison.

Hutchison, who worked in the PDID from 1979 to 1981, testified that he was paid by Security Pacific National Bank for consulting work. Hutchison said that arrangement was known to Davis, who advised him not to apply for a work permit.

However, Davis said in his statement that he did not know that Hutchison was paid by Security Pacific and he denied that he told Hutchison not to apply for a work permit.

If he had known that Hutchison was being paid by the bank he would have referred the matter to Scheidecker or Loomis, Davis said. He said he would have opposed it.